



# Rockville Reports

OCTOBER 2020 • VOL. 66 #8



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## Mayor and Council to Begin Budget Work with Hearing Oct. 26

The Mayor and Council want to hear from the community about their needs early in the budget process as they kick off work on the city's Fiscal Year 2022 budget with a public hearing on Monday, Oct. 26.

To submit comments in writing for the public hearing, email [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 10 a.m. Oct. 26. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the city's website.

Find agenda materials and full instructions for how to participate in the hearing virtually when the agenda is posted several days before the Oct. 26 meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). Virtual participants should send their name, phone number, the public hearing topic and whether they will join via computer or phone to [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) no later than 9 a.m. Oct. 26.

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$140.2 million.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

### The initial stages of the Mayor and Council's budget process include:

- **Monday, Oct. 26:** Public hearing.
- **Monday, Nov. 9:** Work session to review the budget calendar and survey and receive a budget preview.
- **Monday, Dec. 7:** Discussion of the Mayor and Council's budget priorities and their survey responses.
- Additional public hearings and work sessions will be held in 2021. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the budget in May.

## COVID-19 Priorities: Service and Safety

Montgomery County remains in the second of three re-opening phases, with reopening guidelines limiting office use and encouraging telework.

With these guidelines in mind, the city is not able to welcome visitors back to City Hall or many city facilities, and no definitive date for reopening can be established at this time.

State, county and city actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 mean uncertainty for activities, programs and facility hours in the city. Check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition of "Rockville Reports" has changed.

Information about the city's response to the pandemic is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov), on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Nextdoor), and on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable).

For general inquiries about city operations, call 240-314-5000.

### Food Distribution

Need assistance with food? Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food) for a list of food resources around the county and other important information.

Rockville seniors can call the senior center at 240-314-8800, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### County COVID-19 Testing Available

Montgomery County is conducting free COVID-19 testing. Insurance information will be requested (if you have it), but there are no co-pays or deductibles. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html) for more information. For help making an appointment, call the helpline at 240-777-1755, which is open seven days a week from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

No government ID or a doctor's order is required. An appointment is recommended to reduce wait times, but walk-ups are allowed.

### Montgomery County's No-Cost Home-Based Testing

Montgomery County rapid response teams conduct no-cost home visits for COVID-19 testing seven days a week to improve access to testing and COVID-19-related medical care for Montgomery County residents who:

- Live in geographic areas highly impacted by COVID-19 in the following zip codes: 20850, 20874, 20877, 20886, 20901, 20902, 20903, 20904, 20906 and 20910.
- Are members of population groups disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Are homebound or facing significant barriers to testing.
- Have complex or unique household situations in which home-based COVID-19 testing would be more effective than community COVID-19 testing.

For more information, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing/home-based-testing.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing/home-based-testing.html). ✚

## Public Comment Period Extended for I-270/I-495 Widening Project

The I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Study Draft Environmental Impact Statement, released in July, is available for public comment through Monday, Nov. 9, after the state in late August extended the comment period by 30 days to allow the public and agencies more time to review the lengthy document.

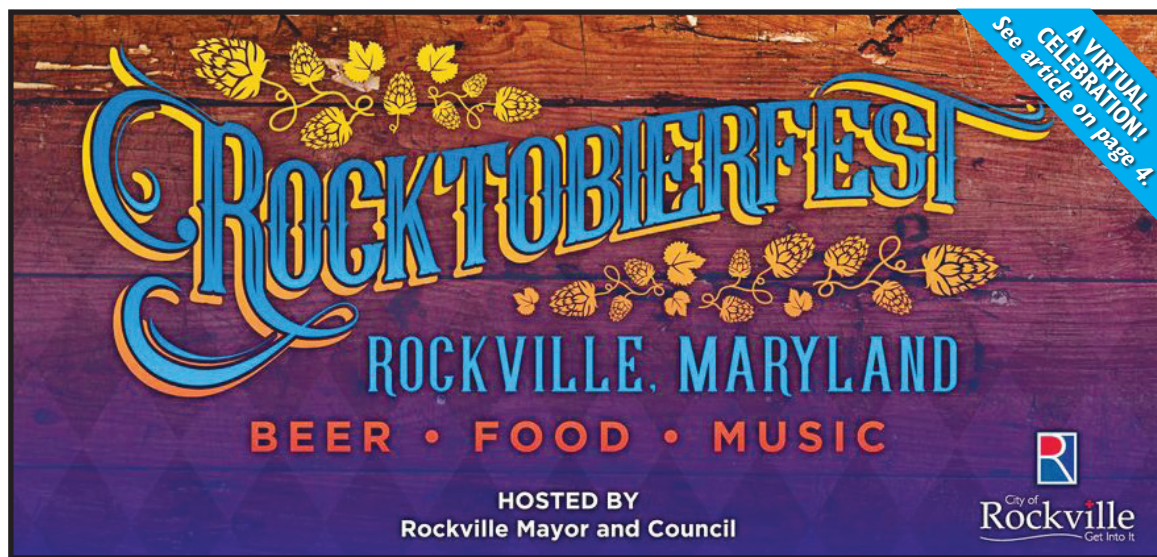
The Mayor and Council unanimously oppose the state project to widen interstates 270 and 495 over the American Legion Bridge with toll lanes, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton testified during a Sept. 10 hearing in Rockville, saying a "no-build alternative" is the only alternative in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Newton questioned the project's ability to reduce traffic or mitigate environmental impacts at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic is changing how we work and attend school, and creating an uncertain financial future for many.

"This proposed project will add a devastating loss of parks, adverse impacts to the Chesapeake watershed, wetlands and tree canopy – and we mustn't forget the air and noise pollution that comes with increased speed and traffic," Newton said.

To provide comments on the DEIS, through Nov. 9, or the Joint Federal/State Application for the Alteration of Any Floodplain, Waterway, Tidal or Nontidal Wetland in Maryland, through Oct. 8, visit [495-270-p3.com/your-participation/provide-feedback](http://495-270-p3.com/your-participation/provide-feedback).

To read more about the Mayor and Council's efforts regarding this project, visit [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) and search "I-270." ✚



## 2020 Election Drop Box Now Open

Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., will be the location for a ballot drop box for the 2020 presidential general election, through 8 p.m. Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.

(Please note that Rockville City Hall will *not* be operating as a voting center.)

Place your completed ballot in the return envelope, sign the oath, and seal the return envelope before taking it to a drop-off box.

Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/drop-box.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/drop-box.html) for a list of other drop box locations throughout Montgomery County.

For more information about the election, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html). ✚



Puede encontrar esta información en su idioma. Visite [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) y abra el menú de «Seleccione Idioma» de Google Translate, situado en la esquina superior derecha de la página.

如果您希望以您的语言查找此信息，至网站[RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com)，打网页右上方的谷歌翻译“选言”选单。

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이 정보를 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com)을 방문하여 페이지 오른쪽 위 Google Translate의 "Select Language" (원하는 언어) 메뉴를 여십시오.

### In This Issue...

- 2 Call to Change State Song
- 3 Walktober and New Sidewalks
- 4 Deer Hunt Scheduled

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364

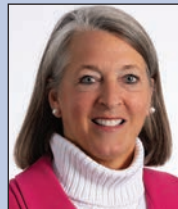
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## Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton**  
240-314-8291  
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Monique Ashton**  
240-314-8295  
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg**  
240-314-8293  
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember David Myles**  
240-314-8294  
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**Councilmember Mark Pierzchala**  
240-314-8292  
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).**

**Meeting Schedule: Mondays, Oct. 5 and 19 at 6 p.m. and Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).**

The Oct. 5 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton from 5:15-5:45 p.m. To participate, sign up by 2 p.m. Oct. 5 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227).

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) by 2 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 9 a.m. the day of the meeting.

All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

## Mayor and Council to Discuss Rockville Station Improvement Study

The Mayor and Council are scheduled at their Monday, Oct. 19 meeting to review a scope of work for a study of the Rockville Metro station that will be conducted by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The general goal of the study, paid for with \$350,000 from WMATA's Fiscal Year 2021 project development program budget, will be to improve the station's aging infrastructure to better connect with Rockville's downtown and explore potential development opportunities at the site, as well as ways to increase ridership.

Once the Mayor and Council have approved the scope of work, WMATA will seek final approval for the project from the Maryland Department of Transportation, which funds WMATA's project development budget for Maryland studies.

The City of Rockville and WMATA have jointly worked on the project scope, with input from Montgomery County. Find the staff report with the scope of work, which will be posted closer to the meeting time, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). ❖

## Mayor and Council to Consider Water and Sewer Rate Structure Changes

The Mayor and Council will consider a new rate structure for city water and sewer service this fall. A presentation of the proposed structure originally scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5 has been moved to Monday, Nov. 2.

The city hired a consultant to develop the new structure, under which the Mayor and Council would set customers' water and sewer rates based on property type, such as single-family, multi-family or nonresidential.

If approved, the new rate structure would become effective for Fiscal Year 2022, which begins July 1, 2021. The actual water and sewer rates will be considered and approved during the FY 2022 budget process.

The city's current water and sewer rates are tiered based on meter size, with no differentiation between property types. Fees go toward payments to repair and replace aging water and sewer

pipes and other infrastructure vital to providing these services, and for required payments to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission related to a regional wastewater treatment plant. For more on water and sewer rates, see page 371 of the FY 2021 budget, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget). ❖

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to consider the water and sewer rate structure during the following public meetings\*:

- **Monday, Nov. 2:** Presentation of the new proposed rate structure.
- **Monday, Nov. 9:** Public hearing.
- **Monday, Dec. 7:** Discussion and possible adoption of the new rate structure.

*\*These meetings will focus on the rate structure. Actual water and sewer rates will be considered as part of the FY 2022 budget process.*

## Mayor and Council: State Song Must Be Removed and Replaced

The Mayor and Council on Sept. 14 unanimously agreed to send a letter urging Gov. Larry Hogan and Maryland General Assembly leadership to work together to remove "Maryland, My Maryland" as the state song, and replace it with one that "amplifies the diversity, inclusion, equity, and unity that is representative of our wonderful communities."

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg initiated the call to change the state song at a critical time, with national and local protests for racial equality, following

the death in May of George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis police officers.

"The current song celebrates secession calling Marylanders to fight against the Union, with underlying calls for the preservation of slavery," councilmembers Monique Ashton and David Myles said. "The time for change is now. More than ever, we need a Maryland song that unifies and represents our great state, honors our history, and celebrates diversity and inclusion."

The Mayor and Council is



**Pinneberg Bürgermeisterin Urte Steinberg (right) and Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton.**

## Rockville-Pinneberg Relationship to be Formalized

For more than six decades, Pinneberg, Germany, has been a sister city to Rockville. But no official agreement to become municipal relatives appears to have been adopted.

On Nov. 15, the two cities will remedy that by formally signing a sister city agreement at a virtual ceremony, 2 p.m. U.S. and 8 p.m. German time.

The signing will be recorded and broadcast on Rockville channel 11, and also on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville). ❖



**LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11**

[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)

## Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov).
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

## Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually in September. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: [www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx).

- **Oct. 14 and 28 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (May be held by teleconference. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) for details closer to the meeting dates.)

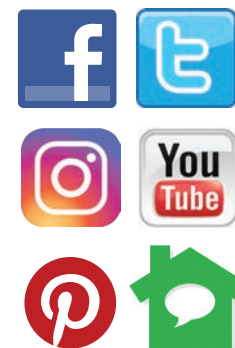
## Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (2)
- Cultural Arts Comm. (2)
- Financial Advisory Board (2)
- Historic District Comm. (3)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (1)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (2 tenant alt.; 2 landlord)
- Planning Comm. (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (1)
- Traffic and Transportation Comm. (1)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.

## Connect with us on Social Media.



## ► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

**Call 1-866-921-6714**

Email [rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca)  
Visit [www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd](http://www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd)  
For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:** Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



# Business as (Un)usual: REDI Moves Rockville Forward Amid Pandemic

New ways of doing business during the pandemic marked Fiscal Year 2020 for Rockville Economic Development, Inc., the nonprofit charged with helping businesses launch, locate and expand in Rockville.

"Although the hospitality sector is hard hit, as well as many small businesses, Rockville is an area with some strongly performing business sectors like bio health and technology, which continue to grow and support jobs despite the economic impacts of the pandemic," states REDI's annual report for FY 2020, which ended June 30.

REDI worked with state and county economic development agencies to create incentives that led Aurenia Pharmaceuticals to announce in March that it would bring its U.S. headquarters to Rockville with up to 500 jobs and 120,000 square feet of commercial space.

The REDI board and CEO completed a Strategic Initiatives and Work Plan for FY 2021, focusing on business retention, expansion and attraction, city projects, small business assistance and workforce alignment.

REDI participated in a number of city projects in FY20, including assisting city staff presentations during a two-day study

of Rockville Town Center by a panel of experts from Urban Land Institute in July 2019, partnering with the city and Federal Realty Investment Trust to create a retail incubator in Rockville Town Square that allows Maryland Women's Business Center clients to try out a brick-and-mortar location before making a long-term leasing commitment. REDI also provided input on the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, reuse of the King Farm Farmstead and redevelopment of the Rockville Metro station.

MWBC is REDI's signature program, serving 1,500 unique clients, who brought in \$870,000 in equity capital and over \$1.5 million in business loans during FY20, while providing 2,543 entrepreneurs with 137 training sessions to support business needs. MWBC also worked with the Small Business Administration, the county and the state to provide information about economic relief resources counseling, and provided online trainings and workshops during the pandemic.

REDI's board is scheduled to meet with the Mayor and Council on Monday, Oct. 5. Find more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

For more information, visit [rockvilleredi.org](http://rockvilleredi.org). ✚

## Students: Register Now for Diversity and Inclusion Training

The city's Human Rights Commission will offer virtual diversity and inclusion training for students living in and attending Rockville-area high schools or Montgomery College (Rockville campus) on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The dynamic, interactive online training will provide students with tools to handle difficult situations with an understanding of diverse populations. It is designed to help students recognize prejudice and create an en-

vironment of inclusion in their schools.

Student Service Learning credits will be offered.

For more information or to register, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights) or call 240-314-8316. For information about accessibility, please call the ADA Coordinator at 240-314-8108, Relay 711 or email [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov). Students will receive information for joining the training after they register. ✚

## Reduce Stress, Combat Loneliness and Ease Back Pain, This Month at the Senior Center

Stay home but also stay well with online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in October.

For details, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation).

You can register online, call 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov) for more information.

### Stress Reduction/ Meditation

An ongoing Monday class that offers the tools to focus, relax, and come to a more peaceful sense of being, from 1-2 p.m. Oct. 5-Dec. 7. Register with course #14940. \$24, members; \$40, nonmembers.

### Blood Pressure Series Session 2: Diet and Hydration

Losing even a small amount of weight if you're overweight or obese can help to reduce your blood pressure. A free session, presented by Adventist HealthCare, 1-2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Register with course #14973.

### EFT Tapping for Good Health

Improve stress-related issues like anxiety, anger, fear and insomnia with this technique. A free presentation by Bev Nerenberg, of Wellness

at Your Fingertips, 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. Register with course #12990.

### Medical Cannabis

Dr. Wilfredo Gamez, clinical director of Peake Relief and specialist in the fields of aging and addiction medicine, presents the basics of medical cannabis, 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13. Register for this free session with course number #12985.

### Combating Loneliness in Times of Social Distancing

From 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, Adventist HealthCare will discuss tips and coping strategies to combat loneliness and keep the mind engaged at this free session. Register with course number #14974.

### Back Pain and Sciatica

Dr. Carlos Martinez, from CAM Physical Therapy & Wellness Services, will discuss how back pain and sciatica affect the body, the causes of back pain, the anatomy of the back, and strategies to manage pain.

Register for this free session with course number #14892. Held 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21. ✚

## New Sidewalks for Walking into Walktober

Two projects completed in the summer added sidewalks to busy roads in the city's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

One project installed approximately 1,700 linear feet of 5-foot-wide sidewalk, including some pervious concrete for stormwater management, to the southside of Southlawn Lane between Lofstrand Lane and East Gude Drive. Constructed at a cost of \$760,000, it also includes curb and gutter, storm drain inlets and pipe, and new trees.

A second project installed 1,050 linear feet of 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of North Horners Lane, between Dover Road and Westmore Avenue. Costing \$480,000, it includes curb and gutter on the west side, and part of the east side, of the road, drainage improvements, and landscaping.

The projects, the first sidewalks on these roads, advance the city's goal of improving

connectivity through safe pedestrian facilities that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Celebrate Walktober

This month offers a chance to use those sidewalks, as Maryland celebrates Walktober. The state Department of Transportation is hosting a series of "walkinars," free webinars beginning Thursday, Oct. 1 on walking-related topics such as advocating for pedestrian safety; improving pedestrian connectivity to support public health and safety; tools for identifying pedestrian-accessible routes and supporting walk equity; and information about local walk initiatives. Walk Maryland Day is Wednesday, Oct. 7. Register at [www.mdot.maryland.gov/walktober](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/walktober).

For information about sidewalks in the city, including how to petition for one in your neighborhood, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks). ✚

## Create with VisArts at Rockville Town Square

Bring your inner artist to Town Square on Thursday evenings through October and take part in VisArts' outdoor CREATE art labs.

CREATE labs are from 4:45-6:45 p.m. each Thursday through Oct. 22 at the square, at 131 Gibbs St.

Participants must register to take part. (For more information, and to register, visit [www.visartscenter.org/visarts-in-the-community/create](http://www.visartscenter.org/visarts-in-the-community/create).) All participants must always be masked. Children under the age of 8 must work with adult supervision. If an accompanying adult wishes to take part as well, please sign up for child(ren) and adult.

- **Oct. 1:** tie dye T-shirts.
- **Oct. 8:** raku demonstration and air-dry clay charms.
- **Oct. 15:** try the wheel.
- **Oct. 22:** wood-branch picture frame.

Learn more about VisArts at [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org).

## Help Rockville on Climate Change Action

The City of Rockville is embarking on a process to develop its first Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare the community to adapt to a changing climate.

Share your vision for the plan by taking a survey at [www.rockvillemd.gov/climate](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/climate). While you're there, find details about the city's Climate Action Plan online open house from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17. City staff will present the plan's background and initial policy areas for input, and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer ideas.

The Mayor and Council discussed the climate action planning process during a Sept. 21 work session. Find video of the discussion and more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

## Volunteer for Clean Streams

City stream cleanups offer safe ways to serve your city while social distancing during the pandemic.

This month, cleanups will be held 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 10 at Maryvale Park, 812 First St., and 9:30-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at Twinbrook Community Recreation, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway. Cleanups will follow safety guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Student Service Learning credit hours are available. Registration is required.

Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream) to register for a stream cleanup or apply to adopt a stream. Find other ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer). For opportunities from around the county, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter).



**LIGHTING LINCOLN PARK WITH LEDs ...** Rockville recently brightened up Lincoln Park Community Center with new, highly energy-efficient lighting, using grants and rebates. The light-emitting diode fixtures will save the city over \$6,500 in energy costs annually. You too can save during Energy Awareness Month this month. Washington Gas is offering 15% rebates on high-efficiency natural gas equipment. Learn more at [mygreenmontgomery.org](http://mygreenmontgomery.org), where you can also find green events and projects to increase your home's energy efficiency. Learn more about energy in Rockville at [www.rockvillemd.gov/energy](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/energy).



## MONTROSE DISCOVERY PRESCHOOL Spaces still available!

- Smaller class sizes.
- Morning temperature checks.
- Face masks and physical distancing.
- More time outside, including free play, organized games, circle time and snack time.

Register at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). Email [childcare@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:childcare@rockvillemd.gov) with questions or to schedule a virtual tour.



## Oompah at Home with a Virtual Rocktoberfest

The City's Annual Celebration Offers Music and Cooking Demos

The city's annual Rocktoberfest is going virtual. From the comfort of your home, enjoy German music and cooking demonstrations.

The virtual celebration posts at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3 on the City of Rockville Rocktoberfest page on Facebook and at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rocktoberfest](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rocktoberfest).

It will include musical performances by Mike Surratt and the Continentals and the Rockville German Band. Also, catch cooking demos featuring Chef Eng from Silo Falls and Chef Planas from Botanero.

## Redesigned and Updated Development Watch Email Launches

The city recently updated and relaunched its Development Watch newsletter, a monthly email with details on projects and new residential, office, and commercial development in the City of Rockville.

The email will include: a link to a GIS map showing the newly submitted projects; plans and other information; and upcoming meeting dates when available.

The updated newsletter is among several initiatives underway to improve Rockville's development review and permitting services under a project known as FAST, which stands for "faster, accountable, smarter and transparent."

Sign up for the monthly update on the Development Watch webpage, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch).

## Got Good Neighbors? Let Us Know!

Rockville is a city of good neighbors. The city is seeking nominations, through 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, for its Good Neighbor Awards. The program recognizes community members who are unselfishly giving back and improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods through good deeds or community service.

The program is designed to honor those who make a difference in our community without seeking or receiving recognition for their service. Nominees are sought in two divisions: adult and youth.

Past honorees have included community members who beautified their neighborhoods, cleared snow and looked out for neighbors and volunteered for community organizations. To learn more about them, visit [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) and search "good neighbor."

Award nominees cannot be employed by the City of Rockville, must be a City of Rockville resident and must have made a significant contribution to an individual or their community during the 2020 calendar year. Recipients will be honored at a Mayor and Council meeting on a date to be determined.

For nomination forms and more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor).

## Serve Your City: Volunteer for a Board or Commission

**Rockville resident?** Lend your expertise to a city board or commission. Boards and commissions provide the Mayor and Council with informed public opinions, thoughts and ideas that shape the city.

Find a list of boards and commissions, vacancies and an Expression of Interest Form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions), or contact the City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8280.



## Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.

## Coffee (and Doughnuts) with a Cop

The Rockville City Police Department invites community members for National Coffee with a Cop Day from 8-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Krispy Kreme in the Falls Grove Village Center, 14919 Shady Grove Road. Face coverings must be worn upon entry.

Chief Victor Brito, RCPD commanders and officers will be on hand for informal one-on-one real conversations with community members.

Coffee with a Cop helps to break down barriers between police officers and the community they serve in a casual atmosphere where residents can sit with officers, ask questions and share what's on their mind.

As part of its community policing mission, the RCPD strives to get to know community members, build trust, and discover mutual goals with the Rockville community the department serves. ✚

## Take-Back Day Offers a Way to Get Rid of Unwanted Medication

### Rockville Police Offer Drive-Up and Drop-Off Collection

The Rockville City Police Department is offering a safe, free and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs during National Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 24.

In cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, city police will accept leftover — including expired — prescription drugs, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Rockville City Police Station parking lot at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. To make it quick and convenient, officers will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off access, so there is no need to get out of your vehicle. *All who participate are asked to wear a face covering, and to stay in their vehicles to maintain*

*social distancing while dropping off their medications.*

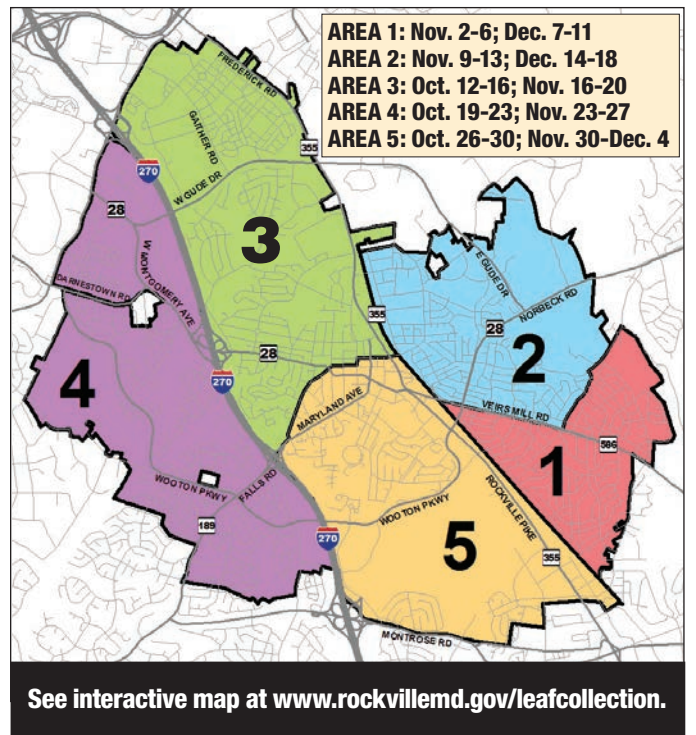
Illicit drugs, liquids, needles, sharps or syringes cannot be accepted, only pills or patches. All returned medications will be destroyed by the DEA.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a convenient and responsible means of disposal, keeping prescription drugs from potentially polluting our drinking water while educating the public about the potential for abuse or theft of these medications.

Learn more about National Drug Take-Back Day at [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov). For more information about the take-back, call Cpl. Derrick Tibbs at 240-314-8922. ✚



**PRIDE FOR OUR POLICE AMID A PANDEMIC ...** COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the big celebration typically held in June, but that didn't stop Rockville from honoring members of its police department during a small Public Safety Awards ceremony hosted by the Rockville Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 9 at Veteran's Memorial Plaza. Honored with citations for their lifesaving acts and outstanding service to the community were (L to R, pictured with Chief Victor Brito, far left, and Deputy Chief Laura Lanham, far right) Jason Ng, Officer Jeremy Ziegler, Officer Ronnie Crowe and Cpl. Jonathan Lee. Not pictured: Cpl. Brandon Thomas. Learn more at [RockvilleReports.com/five-rockville-police-officers-honored-at-public-safety-awards](http://RockvilleReports.com/five-rockville-police-officers-honored-at-public-safety-awards).



## Raking News: Fall Leaf Collection to Begin

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from Oct. 12-Dec. 18 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

After the collection period

ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your recycling and trash collection day. ✚

## Managed Deer Hunt to Close Civic Center Park

Parts of Civic Center Park and Croydon Creek Nature Center will be closed for portions of November to January to allow a pilot archery deer-culling program to take place in the John Hayes Memorial Forest (852 Avery Road) and surrounding parkland.

The pilot will take place

Nov. 21-29, Dec. 19-27 and Jan. 9-16.

As the number of deer have increased, so has the risk of vehicle accidents, damage to landscapes and forest ecosystems, and Lyme disease. The cull is intended to bring the white-tailed deer population to a more sustainable level in

concert with other measures, such as data collection, education and participation in a countywide deer-management working group.

From 2008-2017, according to the Rockville City Police Department, 1,400 deer-vehicle collisions were reported, most often during the height

of the deer breeding season in October and November. A survey of six Rockville parks showed an average of 130-160 deer per square mile. A healthy deer population is around 20 deer per square mile.

For more information, and a map of the specific areas affected, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/deerculling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/deerculling). ✚



Get Into It

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60+

**SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS ...** Rockville II is collaborating with the Rockville Senior Center on a new series called "60+ Spotlight." The series will provide information and resources for the senior community during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Find the debut, "Coping with the Emotional Challenges of Quarantine," on Rockville II (channel 11 on county cable) and on YouTube at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville).